

What is claimed is:

[0022] *Sub a1* 1.

A holster for a tool of the type comprising a body portion and a handle portion which projects from the body portion in a direction generally perpendicular to the central axis of the body portion characterized in that the holster comprises a tubular body portion having open top and bottom ends sized to receive the body portion of a tool, the tubular body portion having an elongate cutaway section extending along at least 50% of the length of the tubular body portion from the top edge and sized to receive the handle of the tool, and means for attachment of the holster to a user which means allows the holster to maintain a vertical or substantially vertical alignment when attached to the user.

[0023]

2. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the tubular body portion is rigid or substantially rigid.

[0024]

3. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 75%, preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90% of the length of the tubular body portion.

[0025] *Sub a2* 4.

A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section is flared outwardly at its upper edge.

[0026]

5. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section is provided with a notch on its lower edge.

[0027] *Sub a3* 6.

A holster according to claim 1 wherein the attachment means comprises a flexible loop.

[0028]

7. A holster according to claim 1 wherein the attachment means is fixed to the tubular body portion through a pivot.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY